

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PEKING 01519 042349Z

64

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00 PA-04

RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-03 AID-20 EB-11 AGR-20 SWF-02

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FM USLO PEKING

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2340

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, CH

SUBJECT: FLOOD CONDITIONS IN NORTHERN KIANGSU

1. NCNA (AUGUST 30) CARRIED AN ARTICLE ENTITLED /EXTRAORDINARY HIGH WATER IN EAST CHINA RIVERS BEATEN OFF." THE REPORT STATED THAT ON AUGUST 12 AND 13 EXCEPTIONALLY HEAVY RAINS FELL IN THE HSUCHOW-HUAIYIN AREA OF NORTHERN KIANGSU, AND INDICATED THAT THE RAINS HAD FALLEN IN SOUTHERN SHANTUNG PROVINCE AS WELL. THE RESULT WAS A SERIOUS RISE IN THE LEVELS OF THE YI AND SHU RIVERS WHICH ORIGINATE IN SHANTUNG AND JOIN NEAR HSUCHOW BEFORE FLOWING EAST TO THE SEA.

2. ACCORDING TO THE REPORT, RAIN DURING THE TWO DAYS MENTIONED AVERAGED 300 MILLIMETERS PER DAY IN THE HSUCHOW-HUAIYIN AREA, WITH 400 MILLIMETERS REPORTED IN SOME PLACES. THE RESULTANT FLOOD CONDITIONS, NECESSITATED THE MOBILIZATION OF A "MILLIION STRONG FORCE OF RIVER FIGHTERS" TO REINFORCE DYKES AND FIGHT OFF POTENTIAL DISASTER. BEFORE 1949, THE ARTICLE SAID, SUCH CONDITIONS WOULD HAVE TURNED NORTHERN KIANGSU INTO A SWAMP, BUT DUE TO WATER WORKS CONSTRUCTED SINCE "LIBERATION," THE RAGING WATERS OF THE YI AND SHU WERE SAFELY CONTAINED THIS TIME.

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3. COMMENT: THIS REPORT BEARS OUT A COMMENT MADE TO A USLO

OFFICER BY A SOVIET EMBOFF ON AUGUST 26. THE RUSSIAN SAID HE
HAD RECENTLY HEARD FROM CHINESE OFFICIALS IN PEKING THAT
THERE HAD BEEN SERIOUS FLOOD CONDITIONS IN EAST CHINA "UP
TO THE YELLOW RIVER." PRESUMABLY NCNA WOULD NOT PUBLICIZE THE
SITUATION IF IT HAD NOT BEEN FAIRLY SUCCESSFULLY CONTAINED.
NEVERTHELESS, IT SEEMS PROBABLE THAT THE HEAVY RAINS
THEMSELVES, AND LIMITED FLOODING WHICH AT THE VERY LEAST MUST
HAVE OCCURRED, WOULD HAVE HAD SOME ADVERSE EFFECT ON CROPS IN THE
AREA.
BRUCE

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